

THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

STATUS OF FEDERAL BUILDING SITE

The status of the Federal Building site is such that the people of Honolulu should sit up and take notice!

The question of where the building should be located has been under discussion in this community for approximately ten years last past.

At last, sick and tired of the eternal wrangling, and with a desire to secure action, several months ago the chamber of commerce and the merchants' association unanimously agreed to leave the question entirely to the discretion of the secretary of the treasury.

Since this action was taken the commercial and other organizations and the citizens whose sole interest in the matter is the public good, have, in good faith, abided by this decision and taken no steps to re-open the site discussion.

Not so, however, private parties interested in making a sale of a particular piece of land to the government.

These private interests have camped on the trail of the secretary of the treasury and of congress and there are now strong indications that their still hunt will be successful at the expense of the public interest of Honolulu.

When the question of the site was first advocated, there were five separate locations presented, viz: the Mahuka site, the lot on Union Street owned by Mr. Wolters; the Allen Estate lot at the corner of Alakea and King Streets; the property of the Union Feed at the rear of Hackfeld & Co.; and the Irwin site, being the large empty lot makai of Palace Square and including the Opera House.

As between the above enumerated sites, there was a large preponderance of sentiment in favor of the Mahuka site, and many who, on principle, favored the Irwin site supported the Mahuka site with the view to try and get together and secure action.

A considerable number of people, however, from the beginning, favored the Irwin site; but, so far as we know, there were no advocates of the Spreckels site other than the owners thereof.

It is now definitely announced that the Mahuka site is to be abandoned, and the community had tacitly understood that the Irwin lot, as second choice, would be chosen.

The arguments in favor of the Irwin site as against the Spreckels site are overwhelming.

In the first place it is on the main city thoroughfare and the only city square, upon which there are now facing the Executive Building, the Library of Hawaii, Kawaiahao church and the courthouse, with the Municipal Building probably to follow.

In the second place it will involve eliminating the Opera House, now a commercial failure; but, so long as it stands, a deterrent to the erection of a first class theater which can be made a success.

In the third place it will form one of a series of fine buildings, creating a civic center, to be proud of; the twentieth century aspiration of every progressive city in the Union.

The Irwin site is approximately twice the area of the Spreckels site. It is offered for \$250,000.00, whereas the price of the Spreckels site is \$300,000.00.

On the other hand, the Spreckels site is on what is now practically a combination of back alleys, surrounded on all four sides with narrow streets and mean surroundings.

On behalf of the Spreckels site it is claimed that it is in the heart of town, while the Irwin site is too far away from the business center. As a matter of fact is the most preposterous claim ever presented for the consideration of an intelligent American citizen.

As a further matter of fact a good baseball player can stand on the Spreckels site and throw a baseball on to the Irwin site.

Any man that claims that the difference in distance of the two sites from the business center is so great as to overcome the reasons in favor of the Irwin site, is a fit subject for the insane asylum.

There is with us now, Samuel C. Ruebsam, chief structural engineer of the architectural branch of the treasury department at Washington, who has come to Hawaii primarily to investigate the status of the foundation of the Federal building at Hilo, but also to examine and report upon the question of the site of the Federal building in Honolulu.

Mr. Ruebsam went to Hilo yesterday, but will probably return to Honolulu next week.

Under the circumstances, it is no more than fair that the people of Honolulu who have no interest in the subject but the public interest, should be given an opportunity to meet Mr. Ruebsam and express their opinions to him upon this vital public question. The private interests have been given their inning, now let the public have their say as well.

Relative Costs of Sugar Production

Dr. H. C. Prinsen-Geerligs, whose reputation as a sugar expert is international, and who cannot be accused of holding a brief for the Hawaiian planters, has made a careful comparison of cost of sugar production throughout the world.

In a series of lectures given before the Braunschweig-Verein, or beet sugar producer's association of Germany, Doctor Prinsen-Geerligs reviewed methods and costs of cane production in Java, Hawaii, Cuba, Mauritius, Louisiana and of beet production in Germany, Austria and France.

Omitting comparative capitalization and interest on capital investment as an unequal factor not capable of fair judgment, he places the average cost of beet production in Germany at seven marks per fifty kilos, or 110 pounds; the Java cost at 7.40 marks; Cuba, 9.40, and Hawaii, 12.50.

Translating this into dollars and cents for American tons on an equal basis of 96 deg. raws the comparison becomes \$29.20 for German beets; \$31.00 for Java; \$39.40 for Cuban; and \$54 per ton for Hawaiian cane sugar raws. There is an additional charge for transportation to near and far markets to be paid by the consumer which is omitted from this comparison.

Here is absolutely ex parte and unbiased testimony by the foremost sugar expert of the world to the logical effect that for the purpose of supplying the American home market the American producers cannot compete on an even basis with European beet and Cuban, or Java cane sugar manufacturers.

Java production is incapable of indefinite expansion because cane areas are limited by the Dutch government to the necessities of food production of the native Javanese. In Java rice has the right of way over cane and always will, because the Dutch place the material welfare of the native populations in their colonies above the exigencies of commercial exploitation and the production of crops for export.

Direct American competition is therefore normally with Cuba, where the amount of cane planted is limited only by the amount of labor and capital available for investment.

Doctor Prinsen-Geerligs stated his opinion to be that cane sugar must always cost more to produce than beet sugar unless an equally cheap method of producing white sugar on the plantations is developed. That is the tendency, he said, and is the direction in which the greatest advances in the milling process must extend.

International free trade in food stuffs may have been attractive as a theory prior to the European war, but the cost of that war must now be paid by the whole world irrespective of theories of political economy.

If the United States goes ahead with its Free Sugar program the nations now at war, which are themselves sugar producers, will simply take up in the form of export duties and war taxes what we relinquish as protection, so that there will be no gain whatever to the American consumer added to a tremendous loss to American producers.

There is much speculation among politicians as to whether the Administration will recede from its position as to fundamental methods of taxation and revenue production for the maintenance of the government in view of the absolute change of conditions precipitated by the war.

If the Democratic party does not so recede it will go down to an overwhelming defeat twenty-one months hence, a defeat that will carry it to the brink of oblivion.

Irrespective of the loss of revenue that will result from free sugar after May 1, 1916, there is the economic principle of protection of home industries that should be paramount. If the Administration is so wedded to a theory that it cannot see actual conditions as they exist, the party now in power deserves to do down to oblivion. If the Democratic party would prefer to see the American people make direct contributions to the European war-chest in increased export duties on the more economically, or more cheaply, produced, French, German, Austrian and Russian beet sugar, rather than maintain the American sugar industry in a prosperous condition, that proud privilege is theirs.

That would be the highest form of expression of international charity but it would be neither good business, good politics, nor plain American common sense.

The European war has made the theory of international free trade untenable.

Cuba being the chief competitor of the Hawaiian planters there is a differential of cost of production amounting to \$14.60 per ton and a further differential of more than the remaining \$5.40 in freight rates per ton to New York, favorable to Cuba. Hence it is evident that free trade will give the Cuban growers an advantage of one cent per pound, or twenty dollars per ton, over Hawaii, which is the amount now accorded the domestic producers.

The Hawaiian planters, Louisiana, Porto Rico the Philippines and the domestic beet producers need that twenty dollars per ton protection. Java Mauritius and the European beet farmers can produce sugar cheaper than we, but the probabilities are that they will not be allowed to do so now that war takes must be paid on all articles and products manufactured for export.

The logic of continued protection for American sugar producers is so clear that one must have a curiously altruistic cast of mind not to see the outcome clearly.

Kupihua, the Shameless

IT IS a sad sidelight on public opinion in Hawaii that a man like Kupihua is able to bear the prefix "Honorable" before his name and no suggestion be advanced that he resign his seat in the legislature after the terrible arraignment he received in Judge Ashford's court on Tuesday. There, from the bench, this "honorable" representative of the fifth district was accused of running what is practically a disorderly house, with his own child daughter and his child niece thrown into the company of men for immoral purposes. It was stated that Kupihua not only invited the men to his home and allowed them to meet and consort with his daughter and his ward—both girls under the age of consent—but supplied one of the men with the key to an adjacent cottage, in which the girls and the boys were subsequently arrested.

That the father, the natural guardian, was the tempter of the boys in this case, supplying his own daughter and his own niece and furnishing the room for the commission of a crime, was the reason advanced by the judge why sentence upon the young men was suspended and why they were not both sent to the penitentiary. And yet, the day after this statement was made in open court, Kupihua, unblushingly takes his seat in the house of representatives, ready to help make the laws for the Territory.

And no protest has been voiced; no suggestion made that this faithless father, unworthy citizen and despicable man ought to show at least the spark of manhood sufficient to send him into hiding.

A Proper Protest

REPRESENTATIVE WATKINS sounded the proper note when he objected yesterday to the introduction of the first of what promises to be a flood of wholly unnecessary resolutions calling for the expenditure of money in unauthorized ways, pointing out that the presentation of such resolutions is, probably, only an effort on the part of the introducers to get their names into the Journal. The sooner a halt is called to these cheap maneuvers at the expense of the taxpayers the better, and Mr. Watkins deserves thanks for the effort he made, whether it accomplishes anything or not.

The opening day of the house produced a crop of forty-seven bills, the majority of them simply stock bills that have been thrown out by previous legislators time after time, but which have to be reprinted now at public expense and which clutter up the work of the legislators. Kupihua, for instance, presented a bill which bears evidence upon the face of it that it had not been even read, much less understood, by the introducer. And this case is only one of several.

At this time, when the session is only begun, is the time to protest against bandleitism. The legislature is above the average in its personnel, but a sprinkling of dolts will bring it into disrepute. These should be sat on at the very start and made to realize that the days of playing at government are past and that a seat in the house or senate now means responsibility and not an enlarged opportunity to play at petty politics.

Why not a winnowing committee, delegated to separate the chaff from the wheat before introductions? Why not some way to stop the waste at the source?

Bukowina

BUKOWINA is a ducky and crown land of Austria and is sandwiched in between the Province of Galicia and the northwestern frontier of Roumania.

Bukowina means the country of the beech trees, and a great portion of it is forest clad, for it lies among the southern spurs of the woody Carpathians. Czernowitz, its capital, has about 70,000 inhabitants, and the population of the duchy is some three-quarters of a million. Of these about forty per cent are Ruthenians, and nearly another forty per cent are Roumanians, the balance being made up of the usual Balko-Hungarian mixture, Magyars, Germans, Poles, Jews and gypsies. The Ruthenians and the Roumanians belong to the Orthodox Church, and therefore the vast majority of the inhabitants hold with Roumania and with Russia in the matter of religion.

The Roumanian peoples in the Bukowina and in Transylvania are not, as might be supposed, settlers who have overflowed across the Roumanian frontier. They have their roots deep in history. Roumania herself is a geographical anomaly, and it is very curious to find a Latin enclave in Eastern Europe surrounded on all sides by Slavs and Hungarians. Roumania is the modern descendant of Trajan's Roman colony in Dacia, and the explanation of the Roumanians in the Bukowina and Transylvania lies in the fact that Trajan's province included both these districts, and was much larger in extent than the modern kingdom of Roumania.

But apart from this ancient tie, Roumanians set up a more modern claim to Bukowina. For the kingdom of Roumania was created in the nineteenth century from the union of the two provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia, which was formerly Turkish. The Bukowina was once a part of Moldavia, and, indeed, Sutzava in the Bukowina was once the Moldavian capital.

When Catherine II declared war upon Turkey the Russians occupied the Bukowina in 1769, but they restored it to the Turks when peace was made in 1774. Austria had been much perturbed by this occupation, and made great show of her anxiety for its restitution to Turkey. But this friendliness

was by no means disinterested, for she promptly set up an intrigue to secure it for herself, and in 1777 the Porte ceded it to her. Since then it has remained in Austrian hands.

Liquor and Lawlessness

FORT SMITH, Arkansas, is the border city between that State and Oklahoma, and border communities rarely grow famous for righteousness. But in Fort Smith, says Collier's, there was not a single arrest made in forty-eight hours, which included New Year's Day. In this connection, ponder the fact that Fort Smith went dry last August. Mr. E. N. Hopkins, editor of "Arkansas Fruit and Farms," has been kind enough to give us these details:

The liquor interests advocate that prohibition does not prohibit, but the record here in Fort Smith shows that the curse has been eliminated to a point where our jails are empty, our police half of what it was when we had saloons, the cost of feeding prisoners is less than fifty dollars per month as compared to nearly a thousand a month under wet conditions, and our city jail is now used as a lodging house for the transient poor. No arrests occurred in Fort Smith from Thursday morning to Saturday morning, which included New Year's Day.

Mr. Hopkins incloses a statement by the chief of police showing that, whereas in the last six months of 1913 there were 2563 arrests, during the corresponding dry months of last year there were only 1329. We are standing at attention to hear how the apostles of booze explain away this drop of 1234 under a dry regime.

THE PASSING HOUR

If ex-Presidents Taft and Roosevelt are to participate jointly in the opening of the Panama Canal, the Cucaracha slide may slide uphill.—Chicago News.

Recent dispatches from Mexico City remind us that Mexico has the largest per capita of Provisional Presidents of any country in the world.—Chicago Herald.

The social problem in Mexico is being solved. Public unrest will surely end when every citizen has served a term as Provisional President.—New York Evening Post.

A new encyclopedia, says a reviewer, contains biographies of a "multitude of respectable college professors." It must antedate the war.—Philadelphia North American.

The Mexicans seem to observe the Sabbath by abstaining from war long enough to elect the Provisional President for the ensuing week.—Louisville Courier Journal.

Ambassadors of foreign nations are hereby warned that they must avoid noisy discussions in the vicinity of the White House. They might wake the baby.—Chicago News.

Perhaps if the Dacia's new American owner had been named "Cholmondeley" instead of Breitung Britain would not be so dubious about the genuineness of the sale.—Chicago News.

Henry Ford says he can take every convict out of Sing Sing, give him a job, and make a man of him; but the trouble is some of them don't want to make automobiles—they want to ride in them.—Boston Transcript.

Far be it from us to doubt the German Chancellor's statement that his people love the Belgians, but we shudder to think of their fate should the Teutons ever get mad at them.—Nashville Southern Lumberman.

Further evidence of the increased cost of living is indicated by the statement that those Terre Haute politicians paid as high as \$20 for vote: which formerly had a standard market value of \$2 each.—Nashville Southern Lumberman.

The Ad Club's campaign to teach the general public the proper method of manifesting respect for the flag should go further. Hawaii has no law to prevent the desecration of the National Emblem, and with the legislature in session, now is the time to correct this omission. The Daughters of the Revolution are, we understand, about to take up the matter, with the cooperation of the Sons of the Revolution and the very probable cooperation of the Ad Club. It is a proper thing.

M. R. Borges, who will spend eighteen months in the penitentiary, is another example of the harm done by the Gulick avenue gambling game, which the police knew about but which they failed to interfere with, until the scandal was forced into public attention by The Advertiser. The guilt for Borges' embezzlement lies at the door of those who permitted this open gambling game to run for months. Honolulu has not heard the last of this game, either. Reports are that a number of young men are short in their accounts because of it.

MINOR'S RELATIVES DEALING DIRECTLY WITH SMART CASE

Mrs. Knight and Son-in-Law Reported Negotiating Over Custody of Young Richard

Aside from what the lawyers in the Smart case may have been doing the last week or two in regard to the only big point remaining at issue in the compromise over the custody of little Richard Smart and the estate of his mother, the late Thelma Parker Smart, Henry Gaillard Smart, father, and Mrs. Elizabeth J. Knight, grandmother of the minor, have been negotiating directly with one another with a view to have Mrs. Knight be given the custody and rearing of her grandson.

It is apparent from comments made by parties directly interested in the Smart litigation, said one who is closely in touch with those on both sides, "that the seeming absence of action during the past week is only on the surface, and, as a matter of fact, that there has been great activity in various directions on the part of both sides all along, the striking and new feature being that the negotiations are going on between the parties and not their lawyers, and that such negotiations are based directly on the proposition that Mrs. Knight herself is to have the custody and rearing of the child."

"In fact, the conditions upon which Mrs. Knight is to hold the child are the only thing now keeping the two sides apart, and this situation has been brought about by Mrs. Knight's direct appeal to Mr. Smart that he give her the child, this being based on Mrs. Smart's dying request that this be done. The proposition that any third party should have custody of the child is practically a dead issue."

MARRIAGE LICENSE REFORMS PROPOSED

Representative Silva Introduces Measure Making Changes in Present Law System

Representative Silva introduced in the house yesterday a bill that is designed to make a radical departure in the method and manner of issuing marriage licenses. It provides that such licenses shall be issued only by the treasurer, deputy sheriff and deputy tax assessors of the several counties and the City and County of Honolulu. The fee, now one dollar, is doubled and the amounts collected shall be turned into the treasuries of the counties wherein the licenses are issued, as county realizations.

"Any person who shall charge more than the fee herein mentioned, or who shall receive a bribe for the same, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars, upon conviction before any district magistrate," says the bill. Jonkling Began Improvement.

Marriage licenses were issued promissuously throughout the Territory until November 1, 1913, by agents appointed by the territorial treasurer, and, as these agents were not paid any salary or the work the fees collected by them, a dollar per license, went to the agent issuing the permit.

Because of many complaints received by former Territorial Treasurer D. J. Conkling, he called in the three hundred or more commissioners then existing and cancelled them all. In place of the agents thus removed from office Conkling appointed the deputy tax assessors throughout the Territory as marriage license agents, with one or two exceptions where others than these deputies were named.

A marked improvement in the issuance of the licenses is reported to exist now, but it has been the feeling for some time that the whole system should be changed, which the present bill seeks to do. It was pointed out after the introduction of the measure yesterday that applicants for marriage licenses should answer under oath to the questions put to them by those issuing permits. This, it is claimed, would prevent deliberate falsification of the ages of the persons seeking to be married and should any persist in such falsification it would make them liable to prosecution for perjury.

BEST MEDICINE MADE.
A better medicine can not be made than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It relieves the lungs, opens the secretions, aids expectorations and assists nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition. Besides, it contains no opiates and is perfectly safe to take. For sale by all Dealers, Reason, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.

Marriage Agent Palmer P. Woods granted a license yesterday for the wedding of Ernest Ahnee, twenty-five years old, and Miss M. E. N. Hekai, nineteen years of age, both part-Hawaiian.